

Winterport Business Association Meeting
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine
Wednesday, July 8, 2009

1. Convene Meeting
2. Introductions of People Attending Meeting
3. Accept Minutes of Last Meeting
Of Tuesday, June 2, 2009
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. 60 Second Spotlight on a Local Business
 - b. J. Brooks – Name Recognition with Eastern Maine Hospital
 - c. J. Brooks – Endorsing Town Council for Waterfront Land Purchase
6. Old Business
7. Open Table – “Idea Exchange”
8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 12, 2009
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Breakfast Meeting

The Winterport Area Business Association
Wednesday, July 8, 2009
Town Office, Main Street, Winterport, Maine

Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

Introductions of those members in attendance were conducted:

Bernie Littlefield, Bel Portraits - President
Ann Ronco, Old Winterport Commercial House – Association Secretary
Stephanie Francis, My Thrill Studio
Laurel Coulter, The Clothesline
Brian Parks, JCM Redemption
Linda Parks, JCM Redemption
Deb Newman, Maine Bytes – Vice President

The meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 2, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Bernie started the meeting by going over the meeting minutes from the executive committee's meeting (see minutes of 6/23/09.) One item brought up specifically was finding out the cost of putting a DOT sign on Rt. 1 directing traffic up Rt. 1A. Stephanie said they had done it for their business and will get the cost, etc. for us.

Deb offered to do a class on Facebook and Twitter. It was asked for her to plan this for the September meeting.

Stephanie offered to help Bernie and Deb Peet with the membership drive.

Question was asked if we were putting together a brochure to advertise the association. Ann said she was doing so and would have something put together for the Winterport Music Festival.

Deb suggested we offer to help members promote their business by practice speaking in front of our group and give a brief one minute talk about their business. It was stated that we can possibly learn how to better promote ourselves by listening to what other business owners are saying. Bernie stated that as an association we need to help train our members on how to promote ourselves.

Bernie suggested we may want to change the format of the meeting and sit in "the round" instead of the executive committee sitting up front. After all, the meeting is supposed to be a discussion and not solely taken over by the executive committee. Maybe also members would interact more.

Question was asked if we had a tent available for the music festival. Bernie will follow up with Phil Pitula on this. Otherwise, Laurel said she will see if we can borrow one from her church.

Brian Parks stated that his redemption business was able to raise around \$3,000.00 from people donating their cans and the money will be used for different local charities. It was commented that many people do not know this is going on and one more example that we as business owners need to toot our own horn. Deb said this is the kind of thing that she needs to know about so she can get it on the association's website. It was stated that possibly other people will now donate their cans here knowing the donation will help people right in our own backyard.

Laurel suggested we have a sign made so we can hang it up at church functions and bean suppers to let people know about our meetings.

Bernie said we need to put our force of membership together for discounts on insurance, oil companies, etc.

Deb said she wants to still work on the shopping card program and will be doing so.

Comment was made that we need to be sure to get the emails out to everyone the week before the meetings to remind people especially since we have changed the time and day of our meetings.

It was reminded that a pre-music festival concert is going to be held on Sunday, July 19th from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Union Meeting House.

The next Business After Hours will be at My Thrill Studio on October 12th. Time is to be determined. It was decided to not have one during the summer due to possible low attendance with people being on vacation.

A new Business of the Month was not picked this month. Deb was out of town and was not able to get Whigs Auto Repair on the association's website nor on the town's reader board. Therefore, they will be carried over onto this month.

The next business meeting will be a breakfast meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 12th from 7 – 8 a.m. Place is to be determined. (Note: After this meeting it is now confirmed to be at Winterport House of Pizza beginning at 7:00 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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